REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 28, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended as to matters of form only. No new matter has been added or amendments made which narrow the scope of any elements of any claims. Accordingly, claims 6-7 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1 - 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite. In particular, an objection was made to the use of abbreviations to define claim terms. Claims 1 to 5 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6 and 7 were amended to include the full text terminology for each abbreviation. Thus, Applicants submit the claims 6 and 7 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Accordingly, Applicants requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1 to 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection is moot, and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 to 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,275 to Wong (hereinafter, "Wong"). In particular, it was asserted in the Office Action that the Applicants admitted prior art discloses certain features of claims 1 to 6. It was stated in

the Office Action that nothing was admitted about posting of the FCT/STFC on a server rather than a automated processor. It was asserted that it would have been obvious to modify the AAPA with the teachings of Wong in order to derive the claims mentioned. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that claim 6 recites subject matter that is not disclosed nor suggested by the combination of cited prior art.

An important feature of the electronic business transaction system and method according to the present invention described in amended claim 6 is the step of performing a predefined STFC (Ship to First Commitment) computation procedure <u>on an SOL (Structured Query Language) server</u> to compute for a set of STFC data based on the received electronic purchase order. In other words, the STFC computation procedure according to the present invention is performed <u>automatically</u> by a SQL server, without requiring any additional human interaction. Therefore, the electronic business transaction system and method according to the present invention is more efficient and human-power-saving compared to the prior art.

Wong (US Patent No. 6,343,275) discloses a web based B2B method whereby clients are able to view order and shipment status via the web. However, Wong does not disclose performing a predefined STFC computation procedure on an SQL server. Thus, the combination of Wong with AAPA cannot produce each and every element of claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn and claim 6 be allowed.

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable

over AAPA in view of Wong and U.S. Patent No. 5,630,070 to Dietrich *et al.*

(hereinafter, "Detrich"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that

claims 6 and 7 recite subject matter that is neither shown nor suggested by the

combination of cited prior art.

Similar to claim 6, claim 7 includes the feature of SQL server for performing a

predefined STFC computation procedure to compute for a set of STFC data based on

the received electronic purchase order. As already described above, Wong does not

disclose or suggest such a feature. Dietrich *et al.* (US Patent No. 5,630,070) discloses

a method for constrained material requirements planning, optimal resource allocation,

and production planning, which provides for an optimization of a manufacturing

process. Materials and resources required in each of the periods necessary for

producing an assembly product may also be taken into consideration by keeping track

of the release period of each product, the period when each input material or resource

is required, and the completion period. However, Dietrich *et al.* neither discloses

calculation of STFC (exemplarily defined by EDI 856 Time - EDI 855 Time), nor

discloses performing calculation on an SQL server. Thus, neither of the cited prior art

references can cure the deficiencies of the AAPA, and the combination fails to disclose

or suggest each and every element of claims 6-7. Accordingly, Applicants request that

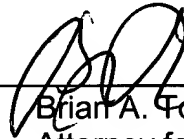the rejection be withdrawn and claims 6-7 be allowed.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application still is not in condition for

allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's

undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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